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D I A R Y

KEPT BY THE

REV. JOSEPH EMERSON

OF PEPPERELL, MASS.

AUGUST 1, 1748 — APRIL 9, 1749

*With Notes and an Introduction*

BY

SAMUEL A. GREEN



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CAMBRIDGE:  
JOHN WILSON AND SON.

University Press.

1911.

that time it disappeared again for some years, though more recently it has come to light; and now by cold type and help of the printer's art it is placed beyond the contingency of a similar accident.

Mr. Emerson's entries in regard to the daughter of the Reverend Jonathan Edwards, of Northampton, show that the diarist was a person of strong sensibilities, and that he had his share of the feelings common to human nature. Several entries in the diary bear witness that the young minister was badly smitten with the charms of Miss Esther Edwards, a girl who not long before had reached her *teens*. In several places Mr. Emerson speaks of her as Mrs. Esther Edwards or Mrs. Esther. In early times it was the custom to address ladies of high social position as Mistress or Mrs., without regard to their marital condition. A few years later she married Aaron Burr, a man considerably her senior in age, who was then President of the College of New Jersey, now known as Princeton University. She became the mother of Aaron Burr, third Vice-President of the United States. From all accounts she was a woman of great attractions and many accomplishments, as naturally she might be both by heredity and environment. Her father was the most distinguished metaphysician of his time.

JOURNAL KEPT BY THE REV. JOSEPH EMERSON.

August Mon 1 I visited 6 Families Stephen Halls Daniel Rolfe, James Lawrences, Benj'n Martins, James Greens, Thomas Williams.

tues 2 I studied A: M: afternoon I went a fishing.

wen 3 I went to Harvard, preached Mr. Seccombs<sup>1</sup> Lecture from John 4. 42. Brother Emerson with me, we went over to Bolton lodged at Dr. Greenleafs.<sup>2</sup>

thu 4 we returned home.

frid 5 I read some and studied chief of the Day.

Sat 6 I Studied chief of the Day.

Sab 7 preached all Day from *what is a Man profited, if he gain.*

<sup>1</sup> John Seccombe (H. C., 1728).

<sup>2</sup> Daniel Greenleaf (H. C., 1699).

mun 8 I visited 8 Families Isaac Williams, Elias Eliot, Eben: Gilson, Daniel Rolfe, Eben: Pierce, Nathan Hall, Will Warner, Widow Saunders. the Wife of Eb: Gilson is runing very *wild*, full of Enthusiasm.

tues 9 I went up to Lunenburg lodged at Mr. *Stearns*.<sup>1</sup>

wen 10 I rid over in the morning to *Leominster* in Company with Mr. *Downe*<sup>2</sup> the schoolmaster of Lunenburg returned to Mr. Stearns to Dinner, and home at Night.

thur 11 I studied chief of the Day.

fri 12 Studied forenoon, went up to Holles<sup>3</sup> afternoon preached Brother Emerson Lecture from Isa: 12. 3 returned.

Sat 13 Studied all Day.

Sab 14 preached all Day from Mat: 5. 4. *blessed are they who mourn for they shall be comforted.*

Mun 15 I visited 3 Families Sam'll Fisk, Phinehas Chamberlin Deacon Lawrence. afternoon I went down to Groton and lodged at Mr. Trowbridge.<sup>4</sup>

tues 16 after making a visit and doing some Business I returned to my Lodging before noon. afternoon entertain Company.

wen 17 Studied some. cut stalks for my Landlord part of the Day.

thu 18 Studied all Day.

frid 19 Studied forenoon, afternoon private meeting at my lodging. I read a sermon of my Father's from *wisdom is of all her children*.<sup>5</sup>

Sat 20 Studied all Day.

Sab 21 A: M: preached from *Blessed are they who mourn &c* P: M: from Lam: 3. 44. *thou hast covered thyself with a cloud that our prayer should not pass thro'.*

mun 22 I visited 6 Families James Colburn, and his son, Will'm Blood, Benj. Swallow, Josiah Tucker, Josiah Lawrence, and so finished my pastoral *Visits* for this *Year*.

<sup>1</sup> David Stearns (H. C., 1728).

<sup>2</sup> Probably William Downe (H. C., 1738).

<sup>3</sup> In the New Hampshire Laws published as late as 1815 the name of the town is spelt *Holles*. Before the Revolution the word was always written that way.

<sup>4</sup> Caleb Trowbridge (H. C., 1710).

<sup>5</sup> *Wisdom is Justified of all her Children*, a Sermon in Boston, August 26, 1742, Boston, 1742.

- tues 23 I went over to *Lancaster* lodged at Capt [Abijah] *Willards*.
- wen 24 Returned *Home* at Night.
- thurs 25 I studied all Day. I now have finished my 24th *Year* and entered upon my 25th may I do more for God this *Year* than ever I *did*.
- frid 26 Studied *forenoon*, afternoon discoursed with two persons who are about to joyn the chh. and one who seems to be under very strong *Convictions*.
- Sat 27 Studied very hard all Day.
- Sab 28 I preached all Day from *the whole need not the physician but they that are sick*.
- mun 29 I visited two sick persons who were prayed for Yesterday and conversed with two persons who are about owning the covenant.
- tues 30 I went up to *Holles*. heard of the sorrowful News of two of my parish quarreling last Night, one wounding the other with a knife as some are ready to fear dangerous.
- wen 31 I studied some at Brother Emerson's and returned went down to look of my workmen who are now building my Chimney.
- September* thurs 1 I studied chief of the Day conversed with a Person about his Soul. Visited a sick *woman*.
- frid 2 Studied forenoon, Lecture afternoon Mr. Secomb preached on *Pauls* conversion. I was obliged to put by the *Sacrament*, for we could not obtain *wine*.
- Sat 3 I went out in order to settle some affair of my own, and visited a man who has received a wound in a quarrel with his Neighbor.
- Sab 4 I preached all Day from *my Sheep hear my voice and I know 'em and they follow me*.
- mun 5 Stopt from seting out in my Journey by the Rain, which was merciful & most plentiful we have had for a year past.
- tues 6 Sat out for *Connecticut* in company with Peter Powers of *Holles* in order to go to *Newhaven* Commencement we stoped at Mr. Trowbridges a little while and then rid over to *Lancaster* Stopped at Capt. [Abijah] *Willards* and took a mouthful and arrived at Mr. *Curtis's* at *Worcester* a little after Nine at Night we mist our way and about half a mile but comfortably found it again.

- wen 7 I tarried all the forenoon at Mr. Curtis's and dined afternoon went over to Mr. Goodwin about two mile. *Peter Powers* went over to Shrewsbuary to see some *Friends*; I lodged at Mr Goodwins. much refreshed with the sight of Worcester Friends.
- thu 8 I called to see Mr. Upham who keeps the School here, made two or three Visits in Town lodged at Mr. Browns my former Landlord when I preached in Town.
- frid 9 We sat out for Connecticut in the morning stopt at Esq. Mores [Elijah Moore] at Oxford, we dined at *Convas's* the Tavern at Killinly, [Conn.] and lodged at Mr. *Howes*<sup>1</sup> minister of the middle Parish. rode this Day 30 miles.
- Sat 10 Sat out on our Journey dined Mr. Hutchins<sup>2</sup> in the same Town who formerly belonged to Groton where we were kindly entertained. We arrived at Mr. Rowlands<sup>3</sup> the Minister of Plainfield.
- Sab 11 I preached all Day from John 4. 42. There is here a separate Society who have a Layman ordained over 'em one Thomas Stevens there is near 50 Families of 'em.
- mun 12 We sat out for Newhaven Mr. Rowland in company Stopt at Norwich which is a very pretty Town dined at Cap. [Robert] Denison's an Uncle of Mr. Rowland, got to Connecticut River just after sunset, past over at Brackaway's [Brockway's] ferry between there and Sebrook we mist our way and wander an hour or two in the woods, at last found our way to Mrs. Lays the Tavern in Sebrook by 11 o'clock where we put up. rid 50 miles.
- tues 13 Sat out on our Journey, baited at Killingworth again at Gilford, and dined at Mr. Robins<sup>4</sup> at Branford got over New haven ferry before sunset which is about 2 miles from the Colledge. We put up and got lodgings before Day Light in Spent the Evening at College.
- wen 14 Commencement, all Things were carried on with the utmost decency, they came very little behind Cambridge its self.
- thurs 15 Breakfasted at College and sat out for home in company with Mr. Eells<sup>5</sup> of Middletown and arrived at his House in the Evening, about 34 miles.

<sup>1</sup> Perley Howe (H. C., 1731).

<sup>2</sup> Probably a member of John Hutchins's family, who had removed from Groton forty years previously.

<sup>3</sup> David Sherman Rowland (Y. C., 1743).

<sup>4</sup> Philemon Robbins (H. C., 1729).

<sup>5</sup> Edward Eells (H. C., 1733).

frid 16 tarried in Town all Day went to another part of it and returned to Mr. Eells. This is a large Town situated at Connecticut River, very populous.

Sat 17 We sat on our Journey in Weathersfield. We met with Mr. Edwards of Northampton and concluded to go home with him the beginning of next week, by the leave of Providence. we stopt and dined at Harford and called at Mr. Edwards<sup>1</sup> at Winsor father to Mr. Edwards of Northampton where we were over persuaded to tarry over the Sabbath.

Sab 18 Mr. Edwards of Northampton preached A: M: from 1 Tim: 6. 19. I preached P: M: from Can: 2. 16. very courteously treated here.

mun 19 We sat out on our Journey and dined at Dr. [Charles] Pinchons at Long Meadows in part of Springfield and lodged at Mr. [Samuel] Hopkins<sup>2</sup> minister of a Parish in Springfield on the west side of the River he is Brother to Mr. Edwards of North hampton, about 20 miles.

tues 20 the forenoon being lowry we tarried at Mr. Hopkins till after Dinner and then proceeded on our Journey arrived at North hampton before Night.

wen 21 Spent the Day very pleasant the most agreable Family I was ever acquainted with much of the Presence of God here, we meet with Mr. Spencer<sup>3</sup> a gentleman who was ordained last week at Boston as a Missionary to the Indians of the 6 Nations he purposes to set out to morrow for Albany. the most wonderful instance of self denial I ever met with.

thurs 22 We sat out for home Mr. Edwards was so kind as to accompany us over Connecticut River and bring us on our way we took our leave of him, he is certainly a great man. We dined at Cold-Spring [Belchertown] and got to Brookfield in the Evening lodged at Dr. [Jabez] Uphams who came from Malden where we were very courteously entertained.

frid 23 We were early on our Journey. Breakfasted at Mr. Eatons<sup>4</sup> the minister of the uper Parish of Leicester. made several visits in Leicester, dined at Mr. Spragues who has lately moved from Malden. went down to Worcester and made two or three visits lodged at Mr. Goodwins.

<sup>1</sup> Timothy Edwards (H. C., 1691).

<sup>2</sup> Samuel Hopkins (Y. C., 1718) married Esther, sister of Mr. Edwards.

<sup>3</sup> Elihu Spencer (Y. C., 1746), ordained at Boston on September 4.

<sup>4</sup> Joshua Eaton (H. C., 1735).



- Sat 24 Sat out on our Journey. dined at Col: [Samuel] Willards at Lancaster got home to Groton a little after sunset. I have had a very pleasant Journey, have not met with any Dificulty in travelling above 300 miles. Gods Name be praised.
- Sab 25 I preached all Day from Rom: 8. 1. went up to Holles in the Evening found my sister<sup>1</sup> comfortably a Bed with a Daughter, my Mother from Malden has been up here about a fort Night.
- mun 26 I waited upon my Mother over to my Lodging.
- tues 27 returned back to Holles with Mother where I tarried two or three Days much out of Order with a Cold.
- frid 30 I came home and attended the private Meeting at Eben-ezer Gilsons. I read some out of Mr. Edwards Concert of Prayer.
- October* Sat 1 I wrote two Letters in the forenoon one to Mr. Edwards, of Northampton the other to his second Daughter a very desireable Person, to whom I purpose by divine leave to make my addresses, may the Lord direct me in so important an affair; afternoon I went up to Holles my sister still comfortable beyond our Fears.
- Sab 2 I changed with Brother Emerson and preached at Holles all Day from, *what is a Man profited if he gain the whole world,* &c.
- mun 3 I sat out with my Mother for Malden dined at Col Tings and got as far as Reading lodged at Capt. Eatons.
- tues 4 We arrived at Malden found my Fathers family well.
- wen 5 I went to Boston did some Business and returned to Malden.
- thu 6 made a visit or two in the forenoon afternoon I sat out for home went as far as Reading.
- frid 7 the weather so bad I could not proceed with comfort on my Journey, made several visits in Reading.
- Sat 8 returned to Groton.
- Sab 9 I preached all Day from 2 Pet: 3. 14.
- mun 10 I visited 3 Families out of the Bounds of the parish made pastoral visits Isaac Lakins, Sam'll Harwell, Benjamin Barkers.
- tues 11 had company all the forenoon, afternoon went down to Groton.
- wen 12 Studied all Day.

<sup>1</sup> Hannah, wife of Daniel Emerson.

- thurs 13 Studied the forenoon, afternoon went down to Mr. Trowbridges Lecture Mr. Hall<sup>1</sup> of Wesford preached from *except ye eat the Flesh and drink the Blood of the son of Man ye have no life in you.*
- frid 14 returned home, afternoon conversed with and wrote the Relations of two Persons who are about to joyn to the chh.<sup>2</sup>
- Sat 15 Studied all Day.
- Sab 16 expounded the 4 first Verses of the 37 Psalm dwelt on 'em all Day.
- mun 17 I went out a visiting made a pastoral visit to John Woods Family. Stopt by the Rain tarried all Night at Benj: Barkers.
- tues 18 I went up to Holles was sent for to visit two persons at Dunstable<sup>3</sup> Massachusetts Mr. Pike and Wife both sick of Fever. I went & lodged at Mr. John *Kendals.*
- wen 19 I returned to Holles spent the forenoon in religious Exercises with the family. this Day was kept as a Day of Thanksgivings by my Brother's family upon the wonderful comfortable circumstances of my sister this time of her Lying in afternoon publick Lecture Mr. Prince the blind man preached from *Mighty to save*, a very profitable Sermon. I returned home in the Evening.
- thurs 20 Studied all Day in the Evening rid up to Mr. Boyntons in *Holles* and heard Mr. Prince again, from Gen: 41. 55. I grow in my esteem of him, as a profitable preacher.
- frid 21 Our Lecture before the Sacrament Mr. *Prince* preached for me, from Luk: 19. 1-10.
- Sat 22 I had company in the forenoon Mr Shed and Wife from Billerica, went up to Mr. Swallows and dined with 'em.
- Sab 23 I preached A: M: from Col: 3. 3. P: M: Mat. 5. 4. Mr. Kendal a Brother of our chh. came to Meating in the forenoon,

<sup>1</sup> Willard Hall (H. C., 1722).

<sup>2</sup> In olden times, persons, on joining the Church, made a confession of faith, and gave a "Relation of the manner of Gods working with there soules." 2 *Proc.*, XII. 328.

<sup>3</sup> By the running of the new Provincial line between Massachusetts and New Hampshire in 1741 the town of Dunstable was cut in twain, leaving by far the larger part of the township in New Hampshire, including the meeting-house and burying-ground; and thus the two settlements remained for nearly a century, each town bearing the same name. The similarity of designation was the source of considerable confusion, which lasted till the New Hampshire town, on January 1, 1837, took the name of Nashua after the river from which its prosperity largely is derived.

and stopt when I was about to administer the Ordinance of the Supper, and began to make some Objection against our way of work and in particular against one of the Brethren of this chh. I was obliged to stop him and desire him to withdraw which he did without making so much disturbance as I expected, he is deeply tinged with enthusiasm. he has not attended with us for some *months*.

mun 24 I had company chief of the forenoon Mr. Bliss called to see me. Afternoon attended the funeral of the Widow *Shipley*, being sent for by Reason of Mr. *Trowbridges* being out of Town.

tues 25 I studied chief of the Day.

wen 26 forenoon did some Business in the *parish*. afternoon went to the other end of the Town & preached a sermon at Daniel Sartells from *in the Time of Adversity consider*. his Wife has been so low that she has not been able to attend publick Worship at the meeting house for 5 years.

thurs 27 Studied part of the Day. conversed with two Persons one about to joyn in full *communion*, the other under promising *Convictions*.

frid 28 Studied some in the *morning*, and had determined to spend the rest of the Day in Fasting and *Prayer* but was interrupted by my Brother *Edwards* coming in from Boston about 1 o'clock. Spent the Remainder of the Day with him, rid out to several *Houses*.

Sat 29 Studied all Day.

Sab 30 I preached A:M: from Psa: 37. 5. P:M: from *what is a Man profited* &c.

mun 31 I sat out with Brother Edward for Malden and got safe there in the Evening.

*November* tues 1 I went to Boston did some Business & returned to Malden.

wen 2 Sat out for home, being not well I reached as far [as] Mr. Benj'n Parkers of Groton.

thurs 3 returned to my Lodgings did some Business in the parish.

frid 4 Studied some conversed with 2 Persons who are about joyn-  
ing the chh. and went out in the Evening.

Sat 5 Studied chief of the Day.

- Sab 6 very much out of Order with a cold yet preached all Day from Psalm 37. 5. much better in the Evening.
- mun 7 Sat out some time before Day on a Journey to Northampton to visit Mrs. Esther Edwards, to treat of Marriage. got to Worcester comfortably tho' something stormy. lodged at Mr. Goodwins.
- tues 8 had a pleasant Day to ride in. got to Cold-Spring in the Evening. lodged at Mr. Billing's<sup>1</sup> the Minister where I was very courteously entertained.
- wen 9 I got safe to Northampton, obtained Liberty of the House. in the Evening heard Mr. Searle preach at an House in the Neighbourhood from by Grace are you saved.
- thurs 10 I spent chief of the Day with Mrs. Esther, in whose company the more I am the greater value I have for her.
- frid 11 the young Lady being obliged to be from Home I spent the Day in copying off some things remarkable Mr. Edwards hath lately received from Scotland. Spent the Evening with Mrs. Esther.
- Sat 12 Spent part of the Day upon the Business I came about.
- Sab 13 A: M: Mr. Eaton of Leicester being here on a visit preached from *in the Day of adversity consider*. P: M: I preached from *behold the Lamb of God*.
- mun 14 I could not obtain from the young Lady the least Encouragement to come again, the chief objection she makes is her youth, which I hope will be removed in Time. I hope the Disappointment will be sanctified to me, and that the Lord will by his Providence order it so that this shall be my companion for Life. I think I have followed *Providence*, not gone before it. I sat out with Mr. Eaton for home. we lodged at Coll: Dwigths at Brookfield.
- tues 15 I came as far as Worcester. lodged at Mr. Stearns.
- wen 16 I came to Lancaster, this Day the Rev'd Mr. Harrington<sup>2</sup> was installed to the pastoral Office here Mr. Storer<sup>3</sup> of Watertown began with Prayer Mr. Hancock<sup>4</sup> of Lexinton preached from 1 Cor: 9: 19. after supper I went to Harvard home with Mr. Seccomb.

<sup>1</sup> Edward Billings (H. C., 1731).

<sup>2</sup> Timothy Harrington (H. C., 1737).

<sup>3</sup> Seth Storer (H. C., 1720).

<sup>4</sup> John Hancock (H. C., 1689).

thurs 17 I came home to my Lodging, dined at Capt. [Benjamin] Bancrofts at Groton. I was considerable melancholly under my Disappointment at Northampton concluded notwithstanding by the Leave of Providence to make another trial in the Spring.

frid 18 I read some forenoon P:M: went to the private meeting at Mr. Wrights read a sermon of Mr. *Elvins* of the Obedience of Faith.

Sat 19 So discomposed I could not study, I could not have tho't what I have lately met with would have had this Effect, the Lord hath put me in a very good *school*. I hope I shall profit in it.

Sab 20 much more composed I endeavored to roll off my Burden upon the Lord and he sustained me. I preached all Day from *they who are whole need not a Physician but they who are sick*.

mun 21 Studied chief of the Day.

tues 22 Studied forenoon, afternoon I went to see some workmen I have about my House.

wen 23 I studied very hard all Day was much assisted.

thurs 24 Public Thanksgiving. I preached from *Praise ye the Lord*, went up to Holles to supper; returned in the evening to marry a couple.<sup>1</sup>

frid 25 rid out with Brother Emerson in Town about Business.

Sat 26 read some forenoon, afternoon wrote a Relation for Mercy Williams. rid up to Holles to change with B: Emerson.

Sab 27 I preached at Holles all Day from *he is the Rock* &c.

mun 28 I made one pastoral visit to Silas Blood on the other side of the River, made several other visits.

tues 29 I studied forenoon, afternoon preached a sermon at John Woods from *he is the Rock*.

wen 30 Studied hard all Day in the evening did some other writing.

*December* thurs 1 Studied hard all Day. went in the Evening to Mr. Isaac Farnsworths and wrote the greater part of a Relation for his Wife.

<sup>1</sup> Without doubt the couple was Samuel Foster, of Boxford, and Jane Boynton, as they were married at Pepperell on this day.

- frid 2 Studied forenoon. afternoon our Lecture I preached from  
*prepare [therefore] with Joy shall ye draw water out of the Wells  
of Salvation.*
- Sat 3 I went in the morning to visit a child of Mr. Wrights who  
is sick of the Throat Distemper. She died afternoon.
- Sab 4 A: M: Sacrament, I preached from 2 Cor: 8: 9. P: M: from  
*blessed are they who mourn &c.*
- mun 5 I write two Letters to Northampton one to dear Mrs. Esther  
*Edwards* who I find ingrosseth too many of my Tho'ts yet some  
glimmering of Hope supporteth my spirits. in the Evening  
I went down to Capt. [John] Bulkley's, lodged there.
- tues 6 Sat out with a Number of Groton people for Concord. I  
lodged at Capt. Hubbards a relation of mine where I was cour-  
teously entertained. I heard of the Death of Mr. Owen<sup>1</sup> of  
Boston, which affected me much, the best Friend I had in Boston.  
I pray God to sanctify to me.
- wen 7 I went to the other parish, attended the Ordination of Mr.  
Lawrence.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Appleton<sup>3</sup> of Cambridge began with prayer,  
Mr. Trowbridge preached from 1 Tim: 3. 15. Mr. Hancock  
of Lexington gave the charge, Mr. Rogers<sup>4</sup> of Littleton prayed  
after the charge. Mr. Williams<sup>5</sup> of Weston gave the right Hand.  
after supper I rode down to my Fathers. My Mother hath  
been ill with the Slow Fever, but something better.
- thurs 8 I went to Boston attended the publick Lecture Mr. [Samuel]  
Checkley preached from Luk: 14. 27. dined with Mr. Brom-  
field, returned to Malden.
- frid 9 Sat out for Home, dined at Woburn with Mr. Cotton, lodged  
at Mr. Chandlers who hath lately bro't home his Wife who  
appears to be an agreeable *Woman*.
- Sat 10 came to Dunstable in [New] Hamshire in order to preach  
there tomorrow Mr. Prince is to supply my Pulpit took lodging  
at Col: Blanchards.
- Sab 11 I preached all Day from *what is a man profited if he gain  
the whole world &c.*

<sup>1</sup> William Owen, a tailor.

<sup>2</sup> William Lawrence (H. C., 1743) at this date ordained at Lincoln.

<sup>3</sup> Nathaniel Appleton (H. C., 1712).

<sup>4</sup> Daniel Rogers (H. C., 1725).

<sup>5</sup> William Williams (H. C., 1705).

mun 12 breakfasted at Major Lovewells and after Dinner at the Col: returned to my Lodgings.

tues 13 read all the forenoon afternoon attended the funeral of a child of Moses Woods who was still born. Evening went up to Holles heard part of a Sermon at Mr. Townshends from Mr. Prince lodged at Brother Emersons.

wen 14 Spent the forenoon in reading part of Col: Gardiners Life. after Dinner returned home.

thu 15 read some. conversed with two persons who are about owning the covenant. Studied some Evening.

frid 16 Studied all Day. Evening went out about Business.

Sat 17 Studied chief of the Day.

Sab 18 I preached all Day from *the whole need not a Physician but they that are sick.*

mun 19 I went out made two pastoral visits on the other side of the River, viz to Nathan Fish, and James Blood. Studied some in the Evening.

tues 20 read some in the forenoon, afternoon went up to Holles and pilotted Mr. Prince down who purposes to tarry a Day or two with us. I studied in the Evening.

wen 21 I read chief of the Day to Mr. Prince and he preached a Sermon at my Lodgings in the Evening from *behold I stand at the Door and knock.*

thurs 22 read something forenoon afternoon went to James Parker [Jr.] and married him at his own House to Rebekah Bulkley.<sup>1</sup> A decent pretty wedding.

frid 23 I was this Day so pressed down under the weight of some peculiar Burdens both of a temporal and spiritual Nature that I could not fix my mind to do any thing at all in the forenoon. afternoon attended the private meeting at Mr. Sam'll Fisks read a sermon out of Dr. Watts.

Sat 24 Melancholly all Day, it seems to be growing upon me. I read a little but chief of the day sat meditating on my Troubles. Evening my Burden was somewhat lightned. O that I could be thankful for it almost unfit me for the service of God or Man.

<sup>1</sup> Son of James and Abigail (Prescott) Parker. See Green, *Groton Epitaphs*, p. 17.



- Sab 25 preached all Day from *the whole need not a Physician but they that are sick.*
- mun 26 Went out to divert my self, and visited several of the Neighbours.
- tues 27 read some, attended some upon Company, and studied some the whole of the Evening.
- wen 28 Studied part of the Day began to read Ames Medulla <sup>1</sup> went in the Evening to wait upon the parish committee at James Lawrence about Business. after Nigh[n] O'clock I was sent for to see the Wife of Benj'n Rolfe who has been exercised with Fits, and is in very great Distress of soul, her convictions appear strong, may they Issue well.
- thurs 29 read forenoon studied afternoon & Evening.
- frid 30 read some & studied some.
- 31 read some & studied some. the year is now concluded and I may well finish my Journal as Ames does his Almanack Another year now is gone, but ah! how little have we done. alas! how little have I done for God, for my own soul, for the souls of my people committed I find a great deal Amiss, I would fly to the grace of Christ to pardon my Defects and to his strength to enable me to do more for him this year if he should please to spare my Life.

*A Journal for the year 1749*

- January Sab 1 I preached all Day from *commit thy way to the Lord trust also in him* etc. extreem cold Day very few People at Meeting.
- mun 2 I went out about Business in the parish.
- tues 3 did some *odd chores* in the Day. Studied Evening.
- wen 4 I went up to Moses Woods and preached a sermon in his House from *turn thou me and I shall be turned.* a larger Assembly than I expected.
- thurs 5 Dr. Brewster and Brother Emerson came to see me, I waited on 'em chief of the Day. Studied evening.
- frid 6 Went up to Holles after studying some in the morning and preached Brother Emerson Lecture from *Fear not little Flock,* &c returned Home.

<sup>1</sup> William Ames's *Medulla Theologica.*



- Sat 7 Studied all Day, being hindered so much this week I could not get prepared for the Sabbath till in the Evening.
- Sab 8 I preached all Day from the *whole need not a Physician*, and extrem cold Day, much colder than the last Sabbath.
- mun 9 I went up to the other End of the parish visited Eleazer Greens wife<sup>1</sup> who is sick, and went down to Dunstable. lodged at Eben: Kendals.
- tues 10 Went to see a man in the Neighbourhood who was apprehended to be adying and he did die within an hour or two after I left the House. I returned Home.
- wen 11 forenoon I studied some, afternoon went to the parish Meeting. Evening waited upon Company.
- thurs 12 Studied all Day. Evening reckoned with some who have worked for me.
- frid 13 Studied forenoon, afternoon attended the Meeting at Jonas Varnum instead of the Lecture for I put by the Sacrament upon the Account of the difficulty of the Season. Spent the Evening at James Parkers.
- Sat 14 Studied all Day.
- Sab 15 I expounded all Day 2 Tim: 3. 1-12.
- mun 16 read chief of the Day.
- tues 17 read forenoon. afternoon & Evening spent with the Committee who came to settle the Salary for this coming year.
- 18 Went up to Holles spent the Day returned Evening.
- thurs 19 Studied forenoon. afternoon attended the funeral of child at Sam'll Rolfe tother side the River, the child was not a fortnight old born of a woman whom Ezra Rolfe brot here and calls his wife tho' he has another at Lancaster. I spent Evening at Deacon [William] Cumings with Brother Emerson & Mr. Prince.
- frid 20 Studied all Day.
- Sat 21 Studied all Day.
- Sab 22 preached all Day from Mal: 3. 16.
- mun 23 Studied some afternoon, entertained company. Mr. Prince came to tarry a Day or two with us.
- tues 24 Studied chief of the Day.

<sup>1</sup> Anna (Tarbell) Green.

- wen 25 Studied forenoon, afternoon went up to Holles.
- thurs 26 Studied all Day. Evening Mr. Prince preached at my lodging from *to 'em who believe he is precious.*
- frid 27 I went to Dunstable Brattles End.<sup>1</sup> preached to a family Meeting at Mr. Eben: Kendals from Mal: 3. 16. and in the Evening at Mr. John Kendals from *turn thou me and I shall be turned.*
- Sat 28 returned Home very much out of order.
- Sab 29 preached all Day from *yea all who will live godly in Christ<sup>t</sup> Jesus shall suffer Persecution.* much indisposed all Day.
- mun 30 my Illness seems to increase upon me.
- tues 31 Something better thro' Mercy was able to do a little writing. heard of the Death James Parker [Jr.] whom I married about a month ago. he died at his mothers at Town [Groton].
- February* wen 1 Something better wrote two Letters to Northampton.
- tues 2 I went down to Groton attended the Lecture Mr. Trowbridge preached from Mark 13. 35. I went to Unkety<sup>2</sup> lodged at John Woods.
- frid 3 attend the private Meeting at John Scots. read a sermon out of Dr. Watts.
- Sat 4 I studied some.
- Sab 5 I preached all Day from *O that they were wise.*
- mun 6 read some in forenoon, afternoon walked up to Holles in order to joyn with Brother Emerson tomorrow in the Concert of Prayer.
- tues 7 We spent the forenoon in religious Exercises in private except one or two Neighbours with us, afternoon a publick Lecture. Brother Emerson preached from Esther 4. 14.
- wen 8 In the afternoon I sat out to return home went part of the way, and was beat out by a storm of snow, made a visit to the Widow Cummings<sup>3</sup> who hath for some Time been under peculiar Temptations. returned to Brother Emersons.

<sup>1</sup> Brattle's End was the name of the settlement in the neighborhood of Capt. Thomas Brattle's farm, now known as Dunstable, Massachusetts.

<sup>2</sup> "Unkety" was the neighborhood of Unquetenassett or "Unkety" Brook in Groton.

<sup>3</sup> Hannah (Farwell) Cumings, widow of Ensign Jerahmael Cumings, and mother of the Rev. Henry Cumings (H. C., 1760).

- thurs 9 Studied chief of the Day.
- frid 10 Studied some in the Morning and returned Home to my lodging.
- Sat 11 Studied all Day.
- Sab 12 I preached all Day from *yea, all who will live godly in Christ shall suffer Persecution.*
- mun 13 read all Day. Brother Emerson and Mr. Ward our school-master who keeps in the parish, spent the chief of the evening with me, and then I went up to *Holles* with Brother.
- tues 14 went early in the morning to Capt. Powers and did some Business made two three visits and returned to my Lodging. I conversed at Brother Emersons with Mrs. [Anna (Farwell)] Brown wife to Josiah Brown who is under very grievous Temptations and spiritual Dificulties. the Lord relieve her.
- wen 15 read some and studied some.
- thurs 16 Studied forenoon, afternoon made a visit to the Widow Parker,<sup>1</sup> who is a young Widow indeed but a little above 18 years of Age.
- frid 17 Studied all Day.
- Sat 18 Went up to Townshend in order to change with Mr. Hemenway.<sup>2</sup>
- Sab 19 I preached at Townshend all Day from Mal: 3. 16.
- mun 20 I made several visits and returned home at Night.
- tues 21 I read all the forenoon, afternoon wrote a letter to Northampton to send by Mr. Isaac Parker who designs to set out for there to morrow. Spent the evening with the committee who came up from Town to lay out the common about our Meeting.
- wen 22 Studied some, spent the evening with company.
- thurs 23 Studied chief of the Day, went in the Evening to visit Cap: Parker and Mehitabel Flanders, who seem to be abandoned to all wickedness. the Capt hath a Wife and yet even before her he will lay upon the Bed with this *Flanders* who is one of the most impudent sinners I ever heard of. I could not see the Cap. but talk with her discharged my own conscience but I fear did her but little good.

<sup>1</sup> Her maiden name was Rebekah Bulkley, and she was married to James Parker, Jr., on December 22. See diary of that date.

<sup>2</sup> Phineas Hemenway (H. C., 1730).

frid 24 Studied forenoon Afternoon the preparitive Lecture I preached from these words *my Beloved*.

Sat 25 This Day being the Annoversary of my Ordination I devoted to Fasting and Prayer. I was obliged to study some being not prepared for tomorrow. I endeavored to lay low before God for my many sins and the many aggreivations of 'em, especially for the short comings of the year past, and awful breach of vows and Promises. I solemnly renewed my covenant made Resolutions and Promises. I hope in the strength of Christ that I would live better that I would watch more against sin, and especially against the sin, which doth most easily beset me and pleaded for strength to perform all Duties of my general and Particular calling. O Lord hear my Prayers accept my Humiliations give me strength to keep my *vows*, for Jesus sake Amen, and Amen.

Sab 26 Sacrament, I preached all Day from 2 Cor: 8. 9.

mun 27 I sat out for Malden, got to my Fathers safe in the Evening. Went via Concord.

tues 28 Spent the Day in visiting a Neighbour or two. The winter in a great measure broke up.

*March* wen 1 accompanied my Uncle Moody a few Miles who hath been visiting his Friends here for some time. He is something better than he hath been.

thurs 2 I went down to Boston, Mr. Foxcroft preached the publick Lecture from Job: 1. 5. I agreed to preach for Mr. Roby<sup>1</sup> at Lyn precinct [Saugus] next Lords Day who supplys my place. Mr. Cheever is to go up. I lodged at Charlestown, Mr. Hopkins.

frid 3 returned to Malden and preached my Fathers Lecture from Mal: 3. 16.

Sat 4 I went to Lynn, took my lodging at Mr. Jonathan Waits.

Sab 5 preached A:M: from *there is no Peace saith my God to the wicked*. P:M: from Mal: 3. 16. and in the Evening I preached a sermon at Mr. Waits *from the whole need not a Physician but they who are sick*.

mun 6 I returned to Malden made a visit or two by the way.

tues 7 I went to Cambridge and visited a poor woman in jail who is condemned to die for Burglary.<sup>2</sup> She appears one of the most

<sup>1</sup> Joseph Roby (H. C., 1742).

<sup>2</sup> "Saturday last at Charlestown a Woman, who has been a notorious offender, received Sentence of Death for Burglary." *The Boston Gazette*, February 7, 1749.

- hardened Creatures I ever saw. afternoon I went to Boston and returned to Malden.
- wen 8 A: M: made a visit to Mr. Cleaveland. P: M: my Father preached a sermon to the children at his own House from *acquaint now thy self with God and be at Peace.*
- thurs 9 I sat out for Home, dined at Concord, spent the afternoon at Mr. [James] *Minots* lodged at Mr. [Daniel] *Blisses.*
- frid 10 returned home.
- Sat 11 read something. received a letter from Mrs. Sarah Edwards of *Northampton*, who entirely discourages me from taking a journey again there to visit her sister, who is so near my heart. I am disappointed the Lord teach me to profit may I be resigned.
- Sab 12 I preached all Day from Rom: 8. 1.
- mun 13 I began my pastoral visits and visited 5 families Dan'll Boynton, Jos[eph]: Jewet, Jonathan Woods, Jacob Ames,<sup>1</sup> James Shattuck.
- tues 14 I kept school forenoon for Mr. Ward had 60 scholars afternoon I catechised in the same house had an hundred children present. I went up to Holles at night and lodged.
- wen 15 I went in company with Brother Emerson to Townsend Mr. Hemenways lecture, Mr. Trowbridge preached it from the *precious Blood* of Christ. returned home to my lodging, Brother Emerson.
- thurs 16 read some entertained company forenoon & afternoon married Abraham Parker to Loes Blood evening.
- frid 17 Studied forenoon, afternoon went to the private meeting at Mr. Whites read a sermon of Dr. Watts.
- Sat 18 Studied all Day.
- Sab 19 preached all Day from Job 19. 25. 26. 27.
- mun 20 Visited 5 families, Sam'll Shattuck, Will'm Spaulding, the young widow Parker, Simon Lakin, Nehemiah Hobart.
- tues 21 Very much out of order. I have a constant faintness at my stomach, more weak this spring than usual.

<sup>1</sup> Well known as the man who had shot an Indian who had killed his father at his garrison house on July 9, 1724. See Green, *Groton during the Indian Wars*, p. 132. This was the last Indian killed in the neighborhood of Groton.

wen 22 able to study some.

thurs 23 public fast A:M: I preached from Isa: 58. 1. P:M: Brother Emerson preached for me the day not being observed in [New] Hampshire from Psal 79. 8, 9.

frid 24 Very faint and weak yet. I wrote two letters to Malden, received visits, went out toward evening with Mr. Ward to see Mr. Prescott.

Sat 25 read some forenoon. Went up to Holles to change with Brother Emerson.

Sab 26 I preached at Holles A:M: from Hoseah 3. 1. P:M: from Mal: 3. 16. came home in the evening.

mun 27 My weakness increases upon me so I am obliged to leave pastoral visits for a time. I rode out and did some business in the parish.

tues 28 I rode up to my place to see my workmen. I had 19 yoke of oxen at work for me and 16 hands all given me my people seem to grow in their kindness to me, blessed be God, they cross ploughed 3 or 4 acres of land.

wen 29 I rode down in town made several visits lodged at Capt. Bulkleys.

thurs 30 attended Mr. Trowbridges lecture Mr. Hemenway preached from Psal: 26. 6. I went to Unkety lodged at Mr. Perkins.

frid 31. returned home and read some.

*April* Sat 1 able to read to some but little.

Sab 2 I was obliged to preach old sermons all day from Rom: 8: 28.

mun 3 ride over to Lancaster I find riding of service to me under my present weakness.

tues 4 the weather so bad I tarried in town all day. Visited Mr. [Timothy] Harrinton.

wen 5 returned as far as Groton dined at Mr. Seccombs lodged at Major Lawrences.<sup>1</sup>

thurs 6 returned home morning our lecture Mr. Trowbridge preached from Prov. 1. 24. the chh stopt after lecture and unanimously renewed their choice of Jer: Lawrence and John

<sup>1</sup> Better known as Colonel William Lawrence.

Spofford for Deacons, who have not yet given their answers  
tho' they have been chose for 14 months.

frid 7 Fast at Holles Mr. Emerson preached all day from Psal:  
79. 8. 9.

Sab 9 Sacrament I preached A:M: from *do this in remembrance  
of me.* P:M: from *there is no peace saith my God to the wicked.*  
My weakness still continues.







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